

FILE COPY

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
JFK Federal Building, Boston, MA 02203-2211

150889

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 3, 1993

SUBJ: Draft Preliminary Assessment
Ucinite Corp/DOT Corp. (Former)
Newton, MA
MAD985300805
TDD# 9202-20-ATP

FROM: Nancy Smith *NS*
MA & ME Site Assessment Manager

TO: Diane Stallings
TRC Co., Inc.

**** IMPORTANT ****

THE FOLLOWING ARE EPA SITE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM COMMENTS. STATE COMMENTS WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOU UPON RECEIPT. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE STATE COMMENTS BY THE END OF THE REVIEW PERIOD, PLEASE CONTACT ME BEFORE FINALIZING THE PA REPORT.

I have reviewed the draft report and have the following comments:

Page 1, 2nd paragraph, delete second sentence.

Regarding the fact that a site reconnaissance was not conducted, I agreed that a reconnaissance was not required after discussing the site with the project manager. It was my understanding that a considerable amount of information was already available regarding this site (actually the TRW DOT site at 459 Watertown St.), and that no useful purpose would be served by visiting the site. However, if the fact that no site visit was performed is the reason that no site sketch has been provided with the draft report, then a site visit may well be needed. All of the features discussed in the report text must be represented on a site map. If this cannot be accomplished without a site visit, then a visit is needed. Was there an access issue with the site? *yes - never got it.*

prepared site sketch

Page 3, 1st paragraph, Clarify that the 459 Watertown St. property is listed in CERCLIS as the TRW DOT Div. site (MAD001032671), and that PA and SI reports were completed for that site in 1984 by the MA DEP. Explain that both sites are located at the intersection of Watertown and Nevada Streets and that the properties overlap.

2nd paragraph, 3rd sentence, correct typo (delete "the").



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✓ The last sentence in this paragraph is out of place (There are five CERCLIS sites...)

✓ 3rd paragraph, Do we know what the Silver Lake Cordage Co. did? *nope*
This isn't the place to state this information, but what do we *unk.* know about historical waste disposal - was the site sewered? Is it likely that wastes were discharged to the cistern, the lake the ground? Would the contamination detected onsite suggest any of these possibilities? *No - all later stuff*

✓ Correct typo (TRW **incorporated**).

✓ Page 4, 1st paragraph, Explain what the "contact wash water well in the warehouse" is, what it was used for, when and by whom, etc. Include map showing locations of wells, and summarize sampling results in an attachment or table.

✓ Is the shallow cistern mentioned at the end of this paragraph the same one that is described in the beginning? Who conducted this sampling and when?

✓ 2nd paragraph, Again, clarify that the site was entered in CERCLIS as being located at 459 Watertown St.

✓ [Remainder of this section, clarify when each event took place. It might be helpful to include a summary table of chronological events at this (both) site(s). ?

✓ Page 5, the last sentence in the first (top of page) paragraph is out of place (The contact wash water...).

✓ 2nd paragraph, Either delete the 3rd sentence, or clarify that the "No Further Action" determination was made by the state with regard to their own program (21E or whatever it was called then). The state does **not** make No Further Action decisions for CERCLIS sites (only EPA makes site decisions for the Site Assessment program). EPA made a "NFRAP - Low Score" decision for the TRW DOT Div. site in 1990 based upon the old HRS model, however, this fact need not be mentioned in the PA report.

✓ Revise the 3rd paragraph to read, "Information provided by an anonymous tipster was forwarded to the Superfund Site Assessment program in a memorandum from EPA inspector William Hanscom to Nancy Smith dated September 4, 1991. According to the informant, the building located at 320 Nevada Street in Newton was owned and operated by the Ucinite Corp. and the Dot Corp. during the 1940s and 1950s, and those companies disposed of drums and liquid hazardous wastes into Silver Lake. Both Raytheon Corp. and Hartz & Mason Corp. are also alleged to have used Silver Lake for hazardous waste disposal. The informant claims that he/she used to fill up cans with "white, gooey, foam" found in the dump and ignite them for use as "flamethrowers". According to this person, the property was later divided into several parcels and

sold to Pat Franci, the Belli Brothers and Angelo Peaolini Corp., and drums of waste were buried when the lake was filled in by the new owners of the property. Lake filled in 1950s by TRW

On the basis of the information provided by the anonymous informant, the property at 320 Nevada Street in Newton was entered into CERCLIS as a potential hazardous waste disposal site on January 8, 1992. During completion of the Preliminary Assessment for this site it was discovered that the 320 Nevada St. and 459 Watertown St. properties overlap. The reader is referred to the Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection reports for the TRW DOT Div. site for further information."

Revise the draft report to address these comments. It may be necessary to perform a site visit before completing the final report. If you have any questions, or anticipate any problems addressing these comments, please call me at (617) 573-9697.

Paolini Corp

MA 019529759

103R Adams St.,

617-527-1094

→ note called N. Smith
explained info is
incorrect -
she suggested adding
a paragraph
refuting it.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
JFK Federal Building, Boston, MA 02203-2211

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 3, 1993

SUBJ: Draft PA-Score Evaluation
Ucinite Corp/DOT Corp. (Former)
Newton, MA
MAD985300805
TDD# 9202-20-ATP

FROM: Nancy Smith
MA & ME Site Assessment Manager

TO: Diane Stallings
TRC Co., Inc.

I have reviewed the draft PA-Score and have the following comments:

Page 9, Has there been a removal of wastes from Silver Lake? If so, has post-removal sampling been performed to ascertain whether any contamination remains? If not, I would suspect Primary targets (the wetland). It makes no difference whether the wetland is onsite. Even if it is now separated from the site by a paved parking lot, this clearly was not always the case. The history of this site and sampling data both suggest that the lake (now a wetland) was used as a dumping ground. In addition, overland flow is described as leaving the site and entering the wetland, 100 feet north of the Mill building. Is the parking lot a barrier to overland flow? Why isn't it mentioned in the PA report when the surface water pathway is described on Page 6?

This change (assuming Primary targets for the SW- Environmental Threat), would result in a site score >28.5.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
JFK Federal Building, Boston, MA 02203-2211

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 4, 1993

SUBJ: Draft Preliminary Assessment Report
Ucinite Corp/DOT Corp. (Former)
Newton, MA
MAD985300805
TDD# 9202-20-ATP

FROM: Nancy Smith *[initials]*
MA Site Assessment Manager

TO: Diane Stallings
TRC Co., Inc.

I received a call today from Ron Gallagher of the MA DEP regarding this site. Ron let me know that the state will not be sending comments for this report. However, he asked me to convey the following observations:

- ✓ The report is missing a site sketch, and one should be included.
 - ✓ The report states that there are no wetlands downstream of the site, but Ron knows that there are wetlands along the Charles River in this area. Please check this out. According to other reports for sites in Newton, there are wetlands in this area. *1 only*
- Please address these additional comments in the final report.